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Patent Application Serial No. 10/756,988

SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph [003] as follows:

-- Increasingly, users are able to retrieve images from multiple databases and collections, which are created and owned by different rights holders. This means that the permissions and costs for using such images may vary across collections, even for the same image. Clearly, the selection of one particular image from one source, rather than another, may be predicated on their varying copyrights and costs, as well as the quality of the image itself. Currently, users are unable to directly, from the [[a]] search results screen either accept conditions for permissions of use or accept terms of payment and charges for ordering and using the image. --

Please amend paragraph [004] as follows:

-- As an increasing number of digital image collections are becoming available through individual servers, digital storage media (e.g., CD-ROM, DVD, etc.) or online via, for example, the well-known "World Wide Web", the potential to access and utilize the images is enormous to both for-profit and non-profit contexts. Users should have, but presently are not offered, the ability to make full ~~use~~ ~~user~~ of digital presentation contexts. Markets where such activities are particularly useful include engineering and architectural firms, document warehouses, publishing and graphics industries, catalog retailers, parts and materials divisions of manufacturers, educational institutions, and libraries and museums. --

Please amend paragraph [006] as follows:

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-- Users need to know information about the image that pertains to its display and use ~~user~~ (e.g., copyrights, permissions, file size, format, royalties, and other costs or conditions of use). In order to find and display ~~displays~~ such information, users are often required to search through applications ~~application~~ or databases ~~database~~ and may be forced to leave the screen on which the relevant images are displayed. This is time consuming and can be confusing. In instances where multiple images are under consideration, it is even more difficult to track which image any specific block of metadata refers. --

Please amend paragraph [007] as follows:

-- Users' decisions, however, to employ or purchase an image may be influenced by the aforementioned types of information. Databases, especially for libraries and higher education institutions and distance learning providers, can become filled with images from heterogeneous sources. Varying rights holders and commercial vendors may provide different use and cost requirements, which also complicates access issues for users. A simplified method and system is therefore needed for displaying relevant information, and which would additionally allow users to identify conditions of use ~~and sets~~ and other pertinent information about an image without leaving the screen in which the image is displayed. --

Please amend paragraph [0031] as follows:

-- The configuration depicted in FIG. 1 is but one possible implementation of the components depicted in FIG. 2. Portable computers, laptop computers,

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and network computers or Internet appliances are other possible configurations. The hardware depicted in FIG. 2 may vary for specific applications. For example, other peripheral devices such as optical-disk media, audio adapters, or chip-programming devices, such as phase alternating line (PAL) or erasable programmable read-only memory (EPROM) programming devices well-known in the art of computer hardware, may be utilized in addition to or in place of the hardware already depicted. --

Please amend paragraph [0037] as follows:

-- FIG. 4 illustrates a graphical representation of a system 400 that includes one or more iconettes, a pop-up window and an iconette information window, which may be implemented in accordance with a preferred embodiment of the present invention. System 400 includes a plurality of iconette symbols 402 (also referred to simply as "iconettes"), which are located proximate to an icon 410 within a frame or framed region 412 that surrounds icon 410. Icon 410 comprises a small image that can be displayed on a display screen of a data-processing system, such as for example, data-processing system 110 of FIG. 1. Note that the term "window" as utilized herein generally refers to that portion of the screen, in graphical interfaces such as GUIs that can contain its own document or message. In window-based graphical user interface environments, a GUI screen can be subdivided into one or more windows, each of which contain its own boundaries and additionally can comprise one or more varying documents or views. --

Please amend paragraph [0038] as follows:

-- Icon 410 represents a data item that can be manipulated by a user. By

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providing visual mnemonics, a user is permitted to control certain data-processing system actions without having to recall commands or input such commands via user input device such as a computer keyboard. Examples of data items which can be represented graphically as icons include data items such as JPEG, MPEG, word processing files, spreadsheet files, text format files, and the like. One or more objects or "iconettes" 402 are associated with an individual data item, such as icon 410. Such objects or iconettes 402 contain information relevant to the data item or icon 410. The icon 410 is a compacted view of the data item. A selection of one or more of the objects (i.e., iconettes 402) by a user can invoke a display of information relevant to the data item, which is indicated initially by a pop-up window 404 and more detailed information displayed within an iconette information window 406 that includes an interactive region 408. --

Please amend paragraph [0039] as follows:

-- In general, a user interface (e.g., GUI) for viewing images presented in image and text format can be enhanced by the creation of objects such as iconettes 402 or "hot areas" embedded within individual image frames or borders. In an effort to minimize file size and transfer time, images are often displayed in thumbnail format. When a user retrieves a thumbnail image or a set of thumbnail images as the result of a search or other data-processing system event initiated by the user, such images can be displayed in a visible "thumbnail" frame. Small color-coded icons or "iconettes" can then be displayed in the space between the edge of the thumbnails and the outer edge of the frame 412. When a cursor passes or runs over an individual iconette 402, a title name for the information the iconette can reveal is displayed within pop-up window 404. Iconette information window 406 ~~408~~

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can be displayed in association with the display of pop-up window 404 or as a result of an additional user input. In either case, the use of an iconette and a pop-up window permits a user to select options pertaining to the use of the image directly from the image itself. --

Please amend paragraph [0041] as follows:

-- A user may wish, for example, to conduct an online search via a so-called "search engine". Note that as utilized herein, the term "search engine" generally refers to a type of program, routine and/or subroutine that searches documents for specified keywords provided by the user and returns a list of the documents or pages where (e.g., Web pages) the keywords were found. A user may, for example, be required to provide his or credit card account information so that such an account can be credited in return for accessing such a search engine via an online Web site. Instead of using a search engine, a user can simply use user a scaled-down version of a search engine which permits a user to search specific types of databases. For example, a user may wish to access a "Web site" which provides thousands of photographs in the form of digital images. The user can manually scroll through indexes by photograph subject or may access a scaled down search engine which utilizes keywords or phrases provided by the user to search for particular types of photographs or photographs by the names of the photographer, year the image was first captured, country or state of origin, and so forth. --

Please amend paragraph [0046] as follows:

-- An example of a type of module (i.e., software module), which can be

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implemented in accordance with embodiments of the present invention is a display module. As indicated herein, one or more objects or iconettes can be associated with a data item such as a digital image (e.g., JPEG file). The object contains or is associated with information that is relevant to the data item. A display module can be automatically utilized through user interaction with a GUI to display a compacted view (e.g., a thumbnail) of the data item in a location of a display screen proximate to the object, wherein a selection of the object by a user can invoke a display of information relevant to the data item. A display module of this type can be programmed to invoke a display of information relevant to the data item in response to dragging a graphically displayed cursor across the object displayed on the display screen. --

Please amend paragraph [0047] as follows:

-- Another type of module which can be implemented in accordance with embodiments of the present invention is a selection module. Such a selection module can be utilized to enable a user ~~use~~ to select the object (e.g., an iconette symbol) to invoke a display of information relevant to the data item (e.g., digital image file). Such modules can be implemented, for example, via executable instructions 312 associated with iconette controller 399 of FIG. 3. --